

The past year for the Schedulers Council

Discussion included:

--If no new people, leader talk would be kept to a minimum. The following agreed-upon wording was added to the Guidelines for Leaders document: "Talk by the leader will be kept to a minimum. If new people are not present, it is not necessary to describe the process of the Sangha evening or to give instruction. Inspirational quotes or gathas, however, are welcome."

--When there are new people, mention that we walk as a sangha, which includes paying attention to the interval ahead and behind us, keeping an equal amount of space between people without allowing large gaps to form.

--Expanding the role of silence in the programming by occasionally having longer sits and no dharma talk. Possibly in combination with chanting, gathas. This remains optional and up to the leader to decide in collaboration with the scheduler. Members are encouraged to make their wishes known!

--It was agreed that the option of metta meditation should stand out in the "Instructions for Schedulers" as they consider the components of their cycles.

--It was agreed that recitation of the MT's remain as is for now: once every two-month cycle, either the Five or the Fourteen. Schedulers are, however, encouraged to explore fresh ways of handling recitation nights. Example would be to use the Five as a guided meditation during the sitting and have the dharma talk be on another topic.

--It was agreed that the Roles and Responsibilities document be reviewed on an annual basis at the first Schedulers meeting after the Annual Business Meeting in order to familiarize new Schedulers with the document and schedulers' responsibilities.

--Delia and Chuck will coordinate winter Half Days of Mindfulness and Karuna summer Half Days. One year terms of this subcommittee will be revisited when the R&R document is reviewed each year.

--Regarding outside speakers: there was consensus that there be a connection between the subject presented and Thay's teachings

--Suggestion to the Caretaking Council that a K.M.-type group for newcomers be formed to study "Buddhist Basics". This would allow newcomers (and other practitioners) to deepen their study of the dharma and to meet others as well.

--Laminated card detailing the end-of-meeting routine was created for leaders' use. Another was made with "Bell Basics". Both are kept in the bell bag.

--Regarding cancellation policy. The following line will be added to newsletter on perpetual basis. "In case of inclement weather, an email will be sent to the listserv by 3 p.m."

--New schedulers will be lined up with a past scheduler to help them learn the ropes. There is sufficient flexibility within the process to allow for both "hands-on" and "light-touch" schedulers.

--Leaders will be asked to mention the \$2.00 donation without sounding apologetic.